

REMARKS

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter for three (3) excess independent claims is attached hereto.

Allowable claims 3-5, 10, and 15-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Allowable claims 3-5, 10, and 15-17 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-14, and 18-20 are canceled.

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-14, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by BAUM, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0112744 A1).

While Applicant completely disagree with the rejections and asserts that all of the original claims are patentable over the reference, to speed prosecution, claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-14, and 18-20 have been canceled.

It is noted that any claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that 3-5, 10, and 15-17, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Application No .: 10/806,435
Docket No.: 03-084037
YAN.043

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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